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REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY **Communist China**
 SUBJECT **Economic - Metal and chemical industries**
 HOW PUBLISHED **Daily newspaper**
 WHERE PUBLISHED **Ta-lien (Dairen)**
 DATE PUBLISHED **15 November 1948**
 LANGUAGE **Chinese**

DATE OF INFORMATION **1948**DATE DIST. **23 March 1949**NO. OF PAGES **1**

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE **Kwantung Jih-pao (Kwantung Daily), No 464, 1948. (Information requested.)**

PLAN EXPANSION OF NORTHEAST METAL AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

Department No 2 (Department of Light Industry) of the Ministry of Industry of the Northeast Executive Committee held a conference in September attended by all factory heads under its jurisdiction. There were 20 units represented, including the paper, pottery, chemical, cement, match, oils and fats, spirits, and flour industries.

Accomplishments in reconstructing state-operated light industries since 1946 were recounted. Two out of five paper factories have resumed formal operations, and two cement plants are being restored, including the Tung-chien Cement Works in Ha-erh-pia (Harbin) which produced 10,000 tons in the first 5 months of 1948. Obstacles to rehabilitation were lack of over-all, unified planning for light industries as a whole, and also the lack of coordinated planning between public and private enterprises.

The conference decided that in the future, the expansion of the metal and chemical industries will be the prime objective to increase amounts of basic raw materials. To unify control and assure planned production, the conference also decided to establish industrial companies to manage paper, cement, chemical, oils and fats, and pottery companies.

It was decided to follow the principle of allowing factories to establish branches rather than launch new companies.

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